

## **Prudence Island Water District**

**Minutes of meeting: September 2, 2006**

**Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were David Buffum, moderator; Patricia Richard, clerk; Phillip Brooks and Robert Hanson. Absent was Richard Brooks.**

**Approval of minutes: Motion by Phillip Brooks to approve the minutes of August 19, 2006, seconded by Mr. Hanson, approved unanimously.**

**Administrative: Ms. Richard reported that she had contacted Jeff Gofton, former director of RI Office of Municipal Affairs, regarding Rural Development Council funding and that as far as he could determine, the funding was to have been written into another Portsmouth project that had USDA funding, and that the item might have been disallowed. She said that there was no percentage in pursuing the matter any further, and that RI Rural Development Council had no funds to award. She said that Mr. Gofton had spoken to USDA Rural Development office and that the pre-development engineering and environmental surveys were under review and the district should receive notice soon regarding the status of the grant award.**

**Ms. Richard reported having a conversation with Portsmouth Town administrator Robert Driscoll and asked him when the 2007 CDBG funding would become available. He told her that he believed that the**

money would be available in autumn 2006 but that the planning office would have a much better sense of exactly when that money would be available. Mr. Driscoll also suggested that the district use its taxing authority to fund its activities. Ms. Richard told Mr. Driscoll that a district tax was not being contemplated at this time. She cautioned the board that her sense was that CDBG funding would not be available to the district indefinitely.

Ms. Richard reminded board members that the district's fiscal year would close on Sept. 30, 2006.

Technical: Phillip Brooks reported having done research on a storage trailer for inventory and equipment. Purchase cost would be:

8-ft x 8-ft x 20-ft \$2800

8-ft x 8-ft x 40-ft \$3800

with or without wheels.

To rent: 20-ft \$85 per month, to rent 40-ft \$100 per month.

These prices are exclusive of ferry transport. Ms Richard asked if the units were electric and telephone ready. Mr. Brooks said that the trailers were strictly for storage and did not have any wiring.

Mr. Brooks reported that he had started the inventory of PIUC equipment and parts. Ms. Richard said that she needed a "wish list" for tools and equipment to put together a transitions budget. He said

that he would try to complete the inventory during the week. Mr. Hanson said he would help Mr. Brooks to do the inventory. Mr. Brooks asked board members had given any thought to how it would address access to heavy equipment. Ms. Richard said that both buying or leasing equipment is expensive and she was currently researching the issue. She said that it might be possible to include purchase of such equipment as part of a funded capital improvement project. Mr. Brooks asked if sand and gravel were available on the island. Ms. Richard said that she would investigate a partnership with the Town of Portsmouth for purchase and transport of these types of materials because they were not locally available. Mr. Buffum asked if Rossi farm had such materials available. Mr. Hanson said that Rossi farm had topsoil but not sand and gravel.

Ms. Richard said that Robin Weber of NBNERR had given a brief but effective presentation regarding groundwater availability to the town council at the meeting held Aug. 30 at the PIA. Becky Cornell, district elector, said that water district moderator David Buffum had also done a wonderful job with his presentation regarding the district. Ms. Richard said that the town council seemed interested in a sole source aquifer designation from EPA. She said that she had looked into this designation and it would only affect development that used federal funding for its projects but might give the district a higher priority for federal funding mechanisms.

**Funding:** Ms. Richard reported a meeting scheduled with RICWFA on

**Sept. 8 to include Rep. Ray Gallison (District 69), RICWFA director Anthony Simeone, and district special counsel Sandra Mack to discuss transition issues, and that the district moderator should also attend. Mr. Buffum said that he would try to attend that meeting.**

**Correspondence: No correspondence.**

**Other business: Mr. Brooks said that he was planning to do well monitoring at some point during the week.**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.**

**Patricia Richard, Clerk**